

# December 13, 2015

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*We are a Welcoming Community of Believers, Hoppers and Lovers. We are One Family in Baptism and the Holy Spirit, nourished with the Word of God and the Body and Blood of Christ. All are Welcome in this place.*

## Cycles of Faith - Third Sunday of Advent

"I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals." So said John the Baptist in reference to Jesus. Tax collectors, soldiers, and countless other people gathered to hear John preach. There was an excitement in the air as they were all "filled with expectation." For generations upon generations they had been waiting for the coming of the promised Messiah--the Christ. And now, John the Baptist had appeared with such a striking message and such a powerful presence that "all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ."

But he wasn't. John's mission was to prepare the way for Jesus Christ. In the process, however, people began to think that John was the main attraction. He set the record straight though, when he emphasized that "one mightier than I is coming." And then he made the remark about not being worthy to do even the most humble act of service--loosening sandal straps--for the Lord.

Imagine what the people must have been thinking. They all found John to be such a remarkable man, and yet he declared that he wasn't worthy? If this great prophet was so humble, how much more should they humble themselves in preparation for the coming of the Messiah? And shouldn't we do the same?

As we mediate upon the coming of Christ this Advent season, we would do well to make our approach towards Christmas with humble hearts. What have we done to deserve this incredible gift of a Savior? Are we worthy of his incarnation and his saving death? The fact is that nothing we could ever do would possibly earn our redemption. May we be humble enough to acknowledge that our salvation is the greatest gift we could ever receive.

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## Readings for the Week of December 13, 2015

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-6/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18  
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-9/Mt 21:23-27  
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23/Mt 21:28-32  
Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Ps 85:9-14/Lk 7:18b-23  
Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17  
Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25  
Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-6, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25  
Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

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**Offertory Last Week: \$1,598.25    Maintenance: \$525.00**  
**Electronic Giving: \$407.00**

**Second Collection This Week for Retirement Fund  
for Religious**

## ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS:

**Sun. Dec. 13 8:00 a.m.** For the Parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Jude Parishes.  
**Sun. Dec. 13 11:00 a.m.** For Reina Aube LaBerge, Roland LaBerge, Bedette Viens, Renette Procopio and Colleen McGrath requested by Leo LaBerge.  
**Sun. Dec. 20 8:00 a.m.** For Nancy and Joseph Blanchette Sr. requested by Joe and Peg Blanchette.  
**Sun. Dec. 20 11:00 a.m.** For the Parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Jude Parishes.

## Pray for Vocations

### Schedule of Counters: Monday, December 14, 2015

Gail Blasius  
Lollie Krawitt  
Sue Haselton

### Schedule of Ministries: Sunday, Dec. 20, 2015

8:00 a.m.	Altar Server:	Hadley Stockwell Eliza Merrill
	Lector:	Evan Beal
	Extraordinary Min:	Sheila Duffy Tricia Sulva
11:00 a.m.	Greeters:	Kyle & Katie Franko
	Altar Server:	Leah Croke Allison Croke
	Lector:	Deena Miller
	Extraordinary Min:	David Croke Deena Miller

### Calendar of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Events

-12/13 Meet and Greet following the 8:00 a.m. Mass  
-12/13 Babinelli Sunday  
-12/15 Salvation Army Dinner  
-12/17 Parish Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Question of the Week:** How can I answer the Gospel question "What should I do?" in a way that shows my heart "beats in time" with God's?

**Time Off:** Bishop Coyne has directed that every priest should have a full day off each week. After consideration, Father Cray has decided to make that day Wednesday. This will begin the first week in January 2016 and there will no longer be a daily Mass on Wednesdays.

**Rosary:** The Rosary is being said each Saturday at St. Jude's before the 4:30 p.m. Mass beginning at 4:10 p.m.

**Holiday Mass Schedules:** The holiday schedule is as follows:

**Christmas Eve and Christmas Day**

- Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at The Old Lantern
- Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at St. Jude
- Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 p.m. at OLMC
- Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at St. Jude

**New Year's Eve and Day:**

- Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at St. Jude
- Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at OLMC

**OLMC Financial Summary for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Ended 9/30/15:**

- Total Offertory Income for the first three months of FY 2016 was \$28,582 versus \$28,823 for the prior year comparable period, a decrease of \$241.00.
- Religious Education Fees were down \$1,540 due to a reduced number of students enrolled this year.
- Gifts & Bequests Income for the three months ended 9/30/15 was \$9,918 compared to \$3,660 for the prior year comparable period.
- Of Note: In prior years the Parish recognized all of the annual building insurance expense in July when the bill is paid to the Diocese. This year we accrued the total paid as a Prepaid Expense and are recognizing one twelfth of the total expense each month (so the YTD operating expenses are lower and net income is higher than prior year comparable periods by the amount of the remaining insurance expense that has yet to be recognized.)
- Net Income for the first three months was \$8,408 versus \$3,124 for the first three months of FY 2015.
- Total Cash Balance at 9/30/15 was \$126,650.

**Salvation Army Dinner:** Our Lady of Mount Carmel will be providing dinner at the Salvation Army on Tuesday, December 15. We are looking for food donations along with monetary donations. We will be purchasing the hams. Any extra funds will be used for future dinners.

\*\*\*We are looking for food donations of scallop potatoes, green bean casseroles, rolls, desserts and milk. We are also looking for people to help serve. Sign up sheets are in the lobby. Food needs to be at OLMC on **December 15 by 3:00 p.m.** Workers at the Salvation Army by 4:30 p.m. **We need enough food to feed approximately 150 people.**

**OLMC Giving Tree:** The Giving Tree is up and has 21 ornaments on it, each a child's wish. Please return your gift by **December 13**. Thank you to all shoppers who will be making a wonderful memory for a child this Christmas.

**Opening of the Holy Door:** You are all invited to attend the ceremony for the opening of the Holy Door at St. Joseph Co-Cathedral on Sunday, December 13 at 3:00 p.m. To receive the plenary indulgence on that day (or any other day) the pilgrim must make a sacramental Confession; receive Holy Communion; pass through the Holy Door at St. Joseph with the intention of receiving the indulgence; and, pray at least one Our Father and one Hail Mary for the intentions of the Pope. You may receive this indulgence more than once during the year, but only once a day. The indulgence can be applied to yourself or to a soul in purgatory. NOTE: This is not a Mass, but a special procession led by the Bishop with the Rite of the Opening of a Holy Door. Light refreshments will be served in the parish hall afterwards. Please join Catholics around the world on this day for the inauguration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy in the individual dioceses. The Holy Door will remain open until November 2016 during which time group and individual pilgrimages are encouraged.



*John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." — Lk 3:16*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

**Meet and Greet:** This Sunday, December 13 is our next Meet and Greet. This will be done by our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade students. Please plan to stop over at the parish hall after the 8:00 a.m. Mass to say hello and grab a cup of coffee and something to eat. See you then.

**Lector Workbooks:** The new Lector Workbooks for 2016 are available in the sacristy for all current lectors. If you haven't yet picked one up, please do so this weekend.

**Senior Meals:** St. Jude Parish offers lunches to area seniors on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> **Tuesday** of each month. The next senior meal is scheduled for December 22 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Serving begins at 12:00 noon. All Seniors and Caretakers welcome.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation: The Light Is On For You:** The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered on Wednesday, December 16 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Jude Parish. This is a Diocesan-wide event held December 16 by each pastor.

**Penance Service:** There will be an Advent Penance Service at St. John Vianney on Sunday, December 20 beginning at 7:00 p.m. There will be priests from the South Burlington Deanery available for Reconciliation.

**Christmas Flowers:** There are collection envelopes in the back of the church for the Christmas Flowers. Your donations may be made in someone's memory. Please fill out the front of the envelope accordingly.

**Christmas Eve Choir:** All are welcome!! Adult and children singers. REHEARSAL will be held in the near future. Please call Marie at 425-2637 or email to [marietcookson@aol.com](mailto:marietcookson@aol.com) if you are interested. We want to make sure we have enough music for everyone. This group will sing for the 4:00 p.m. Mass at the Old Lantern on December 24.

**Birthday Celebration for Marie Cookson:** The Cookson Children request your presence at a birthday potluck celebration for their mother, Marie, on December 26 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at St. Jude Parish. They are asking folks to provide something for this based on the first letter of your last name. **A-D:** beverages; **E-Z:** snack or finger foods, veggies and dip, chips and dip, etc. All are welcome!!

**Helping Hands Sewing Ministry:** The Helping Hands Sewing Ministry (St. Jude and the United Church) will be making distributions of adult smocks and walker bags to local nursing homes, etc., this month. Do you have a family member or know of anyone in our community that could use these items? Please contact Grace Link at 489-6200 with names or for more information.

**Fabric Donations Needed:** Helping Hands Sewing Ministry is in need of cottons, cotton blends and lightweight upholstery fabrics (at least ½ yd). If you have fabric you would like to donate or know of anyone who does, the HHSM would love to take the fabric off your hands. They are also looking for solid color sheets in good shape. If you have any of these items, please contact Grace Link at 489-6200.

**Hinesburg Community Christmas Concert:** The Hinesburg Artist Series will present the annual Hinesburg Community Christmas Concert next Sunday, December 13 at 4:30 p.m. at St. Jude's. Admission to the concert is free. Donations are greatly appreciated, and all are encouraged to bring a non-perishable item for the Hinesburg Food shelf.

**Ministries for Christmas Masses:** The sign up sheets are in the back of the church for Altar Servers, Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve Masses.

**Help Needed:** We are looking for help for the Christmas Eve Mass at the Old Lantern. This special Mass takes a village to make it happen. On Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. we need help transporting to and setting up at the Old Lantern. On Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m. we need help in cleaning up and breaking down. The sign-up sheet is in the back of the church

**Religious Retirement Collection:** Aging religious need your help. In the United States today, there are more than 33,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. These religious worked tirelessly in Catholic schools, hospitals, and agencies, usually for little to no pay. As a result, many religious communities lack adequate savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to today's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

**Collection Envelopes:** The collection envelopes for 2016 are available on the back pew. Envelopes are in alphabetical order. If you have not used the collection envelopes in the past but would like to do so now, please take a box without a name on it. **Please be sure to write your name and address on the envelopes for the first few weeks you are using them. Also, please do not use leftover envelopes from previous years. Some of the numbers have been changed due to the fact that we ordered less this year in order to not have so many leftover and thrown out.** Thank you.

**World Apostolate of Fatima:** Please come and join The World Apostolate of Fatima (Blue Army) on Wednesday, December 16 for an Advent gathering at St. John Vianney Church in South Burlington. Mass will begin at 5:00 p.m.; Rosary at 5:30 p.m.; followed by a pot luck dinner in the Parish Center (next to the church). They will do something fun; please bring in a gift to swap with each other (not required). Little gift can be handmade or homemade item, baked goods, a package of cookies, etc. Just come, your presence makes Our Lady happy. This is also a farewell to Fr. Joseph Lively, the Blue Army Spiritual Director, before he flies to Florida for the winter season. Please come and wish him well as he travels. Call Yorini with questions at 864-0561.

**Vermont Rally for Life:** You are invited to participate in the Vermont Rally for Life on Saturday, January 16, 2016 in Montpelier. Mass at St. Augustine Church in Montpelier beginning at 9:30 a.m., celebrated by Bishop Coyne; March: After Mass, participants will gather behind City Hall in Montpelier to begin the march down State Street at 11:00 a.m., ending at the State House; Rally: Bishop Coyne will present opening remarks in the House Chamber along with a Pro-life Youth Speaker.

**March for Life, Washington, DC:** The March for Life will be held in Washington, DC at the National Mall on January 22, 2016. Even if you can't travel, you can participate! In concert with the Annual March for Life, the U.S. Bishops invite all Catholics to pray for the protection of all human life by participating in a special novena called **9 Days for Life**, from January 16 through January 24. Join thousands of others in praying for the protection of all human life. Download the novena online or participate through Facebook, email, text message or an app. Join at [www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com). If you don't have a computer but would like a copy of the Novena, please contact Marie at 482-2290 and one will be sent to you.

**Holy Family Icon:** The Knights of Columbus will be holding a special service on Saturday, December 19 at 11:00 a.m. to Honor our Holy Family at St. John Vianney Church in South Burlington. "The future of the world and of the Church passes through the Family," observed St. John Paul II, whom Pope Francis called "the Pope of the family". Recognizing the vital role of families in the world, the Knights of Columbus have dedicated their 17<sup>th</sup> Orderwide prayer program to the Holy Family, with the intention of strengthening Catholic families and their prayer lives. The featured image for this program is an etching of the Holy Family by Giovanni Balestra (1774-1842).

**Project Rachel:** Find hope and healing from abortion. Project Rachel is a healing ministry for individuals who have been affected by abortion, helping them to grieve, receive forgiveness, and find peace. For more information about Project Rachel or to speak to a trained Project Rachel professional, please contact 658-4118.

**Year of Encounter Workshop on Social Issues:** Join in on Saturday, January 16, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Michael's College for the "Year of Encounter Workshop on Social Issues". They will examine Pope Francis' inspiring messages on the issues of immigration, criminal justice, and racism. Sponsored by Vermont Interfaith Action and the Society of St. Edmund, this workshop will combine scripture study, story, and discussion to explore how community organizing techniques can help the faithful live out Catholic social teaching and take action in our communities. For more information or to register for this workshop, contact Marie at 482-2290 (parish office) or email at [marietcookson@aol.com](mailto:marietcookson@aol.com) and information will be sent to you.

**St. Michael's College Scholarship:** Father Cray is able to nominate students who are active in our parish for a scholarship to St. Michael's College in Colchester. The scholarship is for \$5,000 per year for four years, and you must be a first-year applicant to St. Mike's. If interested, contact Father Cray for more information.

**Tai Chi Level 2:** A Tai Chi Level 2 class will begin Monday, January 4 through Wednesday, February 24 at 11:30 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at St. Jude Parish. It is Tai Chi for Arthritis, Fall Prevention and Health and is intended for those who have already taken the Level 1 class or have had previous experience with Tai Chi.